



Learning Loss

Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act FAQs

1. Will this document be updated?

Yes. The department will compile and update the FAQ each Friday, as needed.

2. What is the purpose of the Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act?

Districts have reported significant disruptions to learning experiences for children due to COVID-19 during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. Students have been quarantined; teachers have been quarantined and students have cycled through hybrid schedules and school closures. These challenges have resulted in a lack of continuity of instruction that are predicted to impact some students significantly. As a result, additional summer learning opportunities are essential to accelerate students' educational growth and ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their goals and dreams.

3. Are students required to participate in summer learning opportunities?

No. While the bill requires all LEAs to offer a learning loss remediation and student acceleration program, student participation is optional, unless the LEA adopts a policy that requires student participation.

4. What is the compensation rate for teachers staff?

All teachers for the learning loss remediation programs will receive stipends, with classroom teachers receiving a stipend of no less than \$1,000 per week and no more than 25% above the weekly compensation rate of the highest salary step for teachers in the LEA's salary schedule. Teacher funding is a pre-tax allocation. All other staff will be compensated at rates determined by the district or public charter school.

5. What are the three summer programs?

Summer Learning Camps (Summer 2021 and Summer 2022 ONLY)

- 6 hours of daily programming
- Daily programming must include 4 hours of reading and math instruction (with at least one hour of this block dedicated to math and at least one hour for reading), one hour of intervention, and one hour of physical activity or "play."
- Students entering grades 1 through 5
- 5 days per week for 6 weeks



Learning Loss Bridge Camps (Summer 2021 and Summer 2022)

- 6 hours of daily programming
- Daily programming must include 4 hours of reading and math instruction (with at least one hour of this block dedicated to math and at least one hour for reading), one hour of intervention, and one hour of physical activity or “play.”
- Students who are entering grades 6-8
- 5 days per week for 4 weeks

After School Summer Learning Mini Camps (Summer 2021 and Summer 2022)

- These are also known as “STREAM” Mini Camps. (STREAM is “Science Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math)
- One hour of programming focused on a STREAM educational approach
- Students entering grades 1 through 5
- 4 days per week for six weeks provided by a licensed teacher or TN ALL Corps member

Learning Loss Bridge Camps (Summer 2023 and Each Year Thereafter)

- 6 hours of daily programming
- Daily programming must include 4 hours of reading and math instruction (with at least one hour of this block dedicated to math and at least one hour for reading), one hour of intervention, and one hour of physical activity or “play.”
- Students who are entering grade 4-8
- 5 days per week for 4 weeks

6. What are STREAM Mini-Camps (aka “after-school mini camp”), are they required, and when should we offer these camps?

STREAM Mini-Camps are designed to provide additional programming and time for students who attend the Summer Learning Camps. STREAM Mini-Camps are required district programming components to take place immediately after Summer Learning Camps end each day during the summers of 2021 and 2022. All students attending Summer Learning Camps (6- week programming for students entering grades 1 through 5) must have access to a one-hour STREAM Mini Camp after their summer learning camp. STREAM programming and content is determined at the local level. STREAM camps are not flexible tutoring hours that can be designated during other parts of the summer or during the regular school day.

7. Which students are eligible to participate in summer programming at no cost to the district?

Districts are allocated funding to support summer programs and all students are eligible to participate. In the case that there are more students interested in participating than seats available, students who meet the following criteria must be prioritized:

- has scored below proficient in math or ELA on the student’s most recent TCAP,



- in K-2nd grades, students who attend schools with fewer than 50% of 3rd – 5th grade students proficient in math or ELA on the most recent TCAP.
- has scored below proficient in math or ELA on a state-adopted benchmark assessment or screener, Tennessee universal math or reading screener, and/or
- is eligible for TANF funding (is there a link to define this).

Note: A student entering grades 1-3 and attends a school with fewer than 50% of grades 3-5 students are proficient in math or ELA on the most recent TCAP is also eligible for summer learning camps and after school mini camps (aka “STREAM Camps”).

Note: Districts are able to use local funding to open more seats, at the district’s discretion.

8. Can a district partner with other districts, public charters, or community agencies to provide services?

LEAs and public charter schools may collaborate with public or non-profit community partners to implement programs with approval by TDOE. LEAs and public charter schools may also partner with each other to provide camps across districts and regions. For example, District A could come to an agreement with District B that would have District A sending their money to District B, who would in turn conduct camps for all students in Districts A and B.

9. What is the TN ALL Corps (aka “Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps)?

This corps has been created for the purpose of developing and supporting a statewide network of high-quality tutors to assist LEAs, public charter schools, community partners, and parents to address learning loss and accelerating student learning. TDOE is required to administer the TN ALL Corps by developing a statewide initiative to recruit tutors, provide training and certification for members, and develop content to use with students. TDOE may provide TN ALL Corps grants to LEAs and public charter schools to increase the number of tutors in the community.

10. Does the bill provide dedicated funding for tutoring?

No. The bill requires the TDOE to create structures, systems, and content to be made freely available to districts. The bill does not require districts to implement a tutoring program, although districts are strongly encouraged to utilize part of its ESSER 2.0 funds for tutoring.

Districts would be required to implement a tutoring program beginning in the 2023-24 school year for those students who are at risk of retention and for whom the family and school select tutoring as the most appropriate intervention(s).

11. Does the same teacher have to teach the entire six weeks for summer programming?

No. A summer classroom can be split by multiple teachers as long as the district ensures continuity of instruction for the students in the classroom.



12. Can a district use their adopted high-quality instructional materials or must they use the state provided content?

A district can choose to use their high-quality instructional materials for summer programming or the district can choose to use state-provided content for summer programming.

13. Which tests must a district administer as part of the summer programming?

Students will complete a state-adopted pre- and post-“benchmark” assessment for all learning acceleration programs offered during the summer. The results of all benchmarks must be submitted to the Department by September 1 each year. The results of the pre- and post-tests submitted will not be used for school or district accountability determinations.

14. Who must attend the state preparatory training for summer school?

Certified teachers are required to participate in professional development related to literacy but may receive a Commissioner waiver based on prior professional development.

All non-certified teachers are required to participate in an online, asynchronous professional development series.

15. Does a certified teacher have to teach students all day for the Summer Learning Camps and the summer bridge camps?

No. If a teacher licensed and endorsed to teach the subjects and grades served is not available to provide the instruction, intervention, and supplemental supports for the 4-hour ELA and math block, then the instruction, intervention, and other programming may be provided by a candidate enrolled in an educator preparation program, a person with a college degree, or a TN ALL Corps member who has successfully completed a required preparation course.

16. NEW 2/5 If a teacher’s license expires this summer, will they have to participate in training to teach summer programs?

A teacher’s license will not expire until August 31st, at which point summer programming would likely be over. In addition, teachers who have their license expiring this year may choose to renew now to avoid this concern.

17. NEW 2/5 What steps do districts need to take to ensure appropriate liability protections for non-employees who may be teaching in summer programs?

Public Chapter 49-5-413 requires criminal history checks for LEA employees and LEA contractors. It also requires board policies on background check procedures for contractors and volunteers. Districts should consult with their local board attorneys and consider the procedures already in place for contractors or volunteers working in their districts. Districts may need to consider updating



policies in partnership with board attorneys to ensure appropriate precautions are in place for safely staffing summer school programming.

18. NEW 2/5 Will there be additional funding for summer school to cover things like additional staff and transportation?

There is not currently additional funding allocated for summer programming, though it is possible the legislature could consider adding additional funds in the general legislative session, consistent with the conversation during Special Session. This would be added in the supplemental budget and the Department is currently working with F&A to determine a specific amount. Districts also have ESSER funds available to them that can be used to support summer programming for the next three summers.

19. NEW 2/5 Do districts have to have a 1:20 staff to student ratio for summer programming?

There is nothing in the legislation that requires a 1:20 classroom ratio; that is how the bill is funded (which is commensurate with the current elementary ratios and lower than the middle school ratios in the BEP). Districts may choose to allocate resources creatively, such as larger groups for certain parts of the day to allow for smaller groups during critical instructional times. Ideas and resources are currently being developed and will be discussed during the superintendent engagement groups and with our teacher advisory teams.

TDOE Contact Information:

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